IN THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method of testing a compound for biological activity, which method comprises:

(i) providing cells expressing ~~one of the CD94/NKG2 family of receptors~~ a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, NKG2F and any alternative NKG2 spliced form of the aforementioned group members;

(ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound; and

(iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptors are inhibitory NK cell receptors.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptors are stimulatory NK cell receptors.

23. (Currently amended) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 20, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors as used in medical diagnostic procedures, wherein the compounds are small peptides.

24 -29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein the inhibitory CD94/NKG2 receptors are CD94/NKG2A receptors.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the stimulatory CD94/NKG2 receptors are CD94/NKG2C receptors.

32. (Previously presented) A method of testing a compound for biological activity, which method comprises:

(i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from the group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2D, NKG2E, and NKG2F at the cell surface;

(ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound; and

(iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

35. (Currently amended) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors as used in medical diagnostic procedures, wherein the compounds are small peptides.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the inhibitory CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2A receptor.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the stimulatory CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2C receptor.

38. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 20, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors as used in medical diagnostic procedures, wherein the compounds are antibodies.

39. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 20, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are antibodies.

40. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 20, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are monoclonal antibodies.

41. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 20, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are one of the group of anti-HLA-E antibodies, anti-CD94 antibodies, and anti-NKG2 antibodies.

42. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors as used in medical diagnostic procedures, wherein the compounds are antibodies.

43. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are antibodies.

44. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are monoclonal antibodies.

45. (New) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are one of the group of anti-HLA-E antibodies, anti-CD94 antibodies, and anti-NKG2 antibodies.

46. (New) A method of identifying compounds affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

(i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, NKG2F and

any alternative NKG2 spliced form of the aforementioned group members;

(ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of a test compound; and

(iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising using the identified compounds in medical diagnostic procedures.

48. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising using compounds that have been determined to affect the binding of HLA-E to the cells in medical diagnostic procedures.

49. (New) the method of claim 32, further comprising using compounds that have been determined to affect the binding of HLA-E to the cells in medical diagnostic procedures.